Chapter 1. Introduction

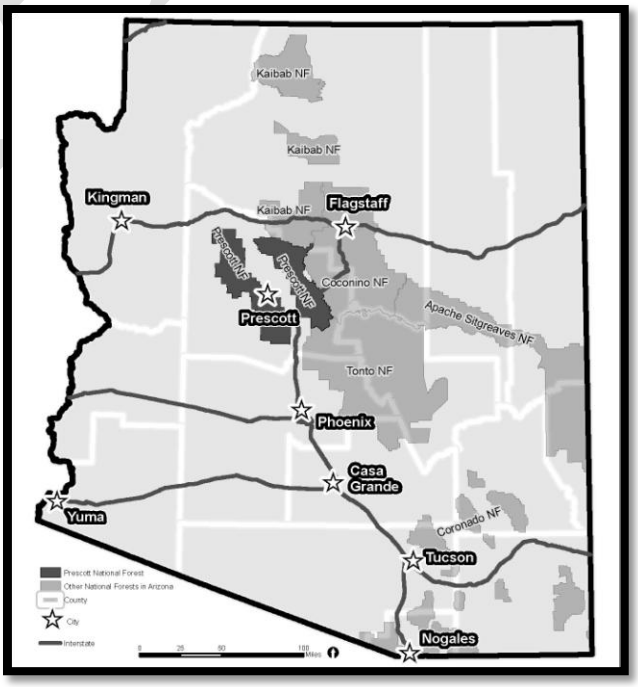
Location

The Prescott National Forest (Prescott NF) is one of six national forests in Arizona (figure 1). It covers approximately 1.2 million acres in west-central Arizona and is located in Yavapai and Coconino Counties. The Prescott NF consists of two geographically separate land areas (eastern and western) that are administered as three ranger districts: the Chino Valley Ranger District, which covers the areas east and west of Chino Valley; the Bradshaw Ranger District, which covers the area near Prescott and south into the Bradshaw Mountains; and the Verde Ranger District, which covers the area just north of Jerome and Clarkdale and along the southern side of the Verde Valley. The Prescott NF shares boundaries with: the Coconino, Kaibab, and Tonto National Forests; the Agua Fria National Monument; and Bureau of Land Management—Hassayampa Field Office; Arizona State Trust lands; and several communities including Prescott, Camp Verde, and Cottonwood.

Role and Contributions of the Planning Area

The Prescott NF is located in a comparatively mountainous section of central Arizona between the forested plateaus to the north and the arid desert region to the south. Elevations range between 3,000 feet above sea level along the lower Verde Valley to 7,979 feet at the top of Mount Union, the highest natural feature on the national forest.

Figure 1. Vicinity Map of the Prescott NF



The purpose of the original forest reserves, now part of the Prescott NF, was to protect and conserve water supplies for central Arizona. The rugged topography of the Prescott NF provides important watersheds for both the Verde and Colorado River systems. Within these watersheds are many important continuously or seasonally flowing stream courses and drainages. Portions of the Verde River have been designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The vegetation on the Prescott NF is complex and diverse. South of the Bradshaw Mountains there is Sonoran Desert dominated by saguaro cacti and paloverde trees. Less than 10 miles upslope from the desert, there are cool mountain forests where conifer trees grow. In between, there are a variety of plant and animal habitats including grasslands, chaparral, piñon-juniper woodlands, and ponderosa pine forests.

A variety of year-round recreational opportunities exist on the Prescott NF. Visitors and local citizens alike enjoy having such opportunities nearby, and during the summer, recreate in the Prescott NF where temperatures are moderate. In the winter, people visit the Verde Valley and other snow-free areas to recreate where temperatures are mild. Increases in population have led to increased demand for trails and

other recreational opportunities. If climate changes include continuing increases in temperatures, it is likely that there will also be increases in recreational visitors from hotter areas such as Phoenix.

Prescott National Forest Mission and Vision

The nation-wide mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The overall goal of managing National Forest System lands is to sustain the multiple-uses of its resources in perpetuity, while maintaining the long-term productivity of the land.

The Prescott NF's mission is to effectively and efficiently manage National Forest System lands and resources to meet the needs and desires of the public, while enhancing the environment.

The general vision for the Prescott NF includes the following: forest ecosystems are healthy with an abundant and diverse flora and fauna; a variety of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities are provided and serve as an important part of the rich Southwestern scenic and cultural heritage; watersheds provide for good water quality and the timing and volumes of water meet community and resource needs; and historic uses such as mining, livestock grazing, fuelwood cutting, and timber harvest continue within sustainable levels.

Planning Framework

The Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan (hereinafter referred to as the Plan) is intended to produce responsible land management for the Prescott NF based on useful and current information and guidance. The Plan guides the Forest Service in carrying out its responsibilities for stewardship under the sustainable multiple-use management concept—which is to meet the diverse needs of people, while also protecting the resources of the Prescott NF. Land management plans are required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA) and the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA).

Sustainable multiple use management, for the purposes of this document, means that various activities that have social or economic value may take place, while ecosystem processes and biological characteristics continue to fulfill their natural rhythm of change over time. In order to do that, management needs to be adaptable. As activities take place, awareness of trends helps to determine needed modification of management actions.

The Plan provides broad guidance and information for project and activity decision-making on the Prescott NF. The Plan has these characteristics:

- The Plan is strategic in nature. It does not include project level decisions. Those decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are identified and analyzed and there is the opportunity for public involvement.
- The Plan includes the following plan components: desired conditions (or goals), objectives, suitability of areas, special areas, standards, guidelines, and a monitoring strategy.
- The Plan is intended to be adaptive, in that new knowledge and information can be analyzed and the Plan changed, if appropriate, at any time. Changes to plan components are made by an amendment process.
- The Plan honors the continuing validity of private, statutory, or pre-existing rights.

Plan Consistency

As required by the National Forest Management Act and the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule, all projects and activities authorized by the Forest Service must be consistent with the

Plan. Projects and activities cover all actions under 16 U.S.C. 1604(i). A project or activity must be consistent with the Plan by being consistent with applicable plan decisions.

Where a proposed project or activity would not be consistent with a plan component the responsible official has the following options:

- To modify the proposal so that the project or activity will be consistent;
- To reject the proposal; or
- To amend the plan contemporaneously with the approval of the project or activity so that the project or activity is consistent with the plan as amended. The amendment may be limited to apply only to the project or activity.

Additional information regarding plan consistency can be found in appendix X.

Needs for Change

In the 2009 Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), the Prescott NF evaluated how management under its existing land management plan (the 1987 Plan), as amended, was affecting conditions and trends related to sustainability of ecological, economic, and social factors. The AMS integrated key findings from the Ecological Sustainability Report (2009) and the Economic and Social Sustainability Assessment (2008)—two detailed reports which were developed previously by the Prescott NF to identify current conditions and probable future trends. These documents, and all documents associated with the revision of the Plan can be viewed and downloaded from the Prescott NF website.

The AMS identified five areas where there are priority needs for change:

- Restore vegetation arrangements, plant species, and fire to selected ecosystems, while using adaptive management to respond to citizen concerns related to smoke emissions.
- Maintain/improve watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery.
- Provide sustainable, diverse recreational experiences that consider population demographic characteristics, reflect desires of local communities, avoid overcrowding and user conflicts, and minimize resource damage.
- Provide desired habitat for native fish.
- Enhance the scenic value of Prescott NF-provided open space by defining the value of the visual character within areas near or viewed by those in local communities.

Other needs for change have been and will continue to be identified. New information and changing conditions will call for changes in management. As these needs become ripe for action, iterative and adaptive planning will facilitate the incorporation of new information into potential plan amendments. This adaptive planning approach is in accordance with the National Forest Management Act, which requires the Forest Service to amend the Plan, if necessary, every 10 to 15 years to reflect changing land management needs. This document represents the revised Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan (revised Plan), and it focuses on the identified needs for change thus far.

The revised Plan was completed using direction from the 2000 planning rule; the transition provisions of that rule allow use of the provisions of the 1982 planning rule to revise forest plans. The Prescott NF elected to use the provisions of the 1982 planning rule.

1987 Plan Amendments Included in the Revised Plan

The direction from the following amendments to the 1987 Plan were incorporated into the revised Plan essentially unchanged. The associated documents related to these amendments are located in the Plan Record for the revised Plan.

- Amendment #4 (1989) provides direction for motor vehicles on trails, roads, and area along either side of roads. Big game retrieval as defined in Amendment 4 was modified in the revised plan.
- Amendment #8 (1996) defines opportunity classes for the Granite Mountain Wilderness.
- Amendment #10 (1997) provides management direction for the Grapevine Botanical Area.
- Amendment #11 (1999) provides specific direction for access in the Prescott Basin.
- Amendment #13 (2004) incorporates the Verde Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive River Management Plan.
- Amendment #14 (2005) provides management direction on the treatment of non-native and invasive weeds.

1987 Plan Direction Not Included in the Revised Plan

Some components of the 1987 Plan are still adequate and timely; these have been carried forward into the revised Plan. Other components of the 1987 Plan have been modified or removed, for reasons including: they describe a purely administrative or procedural function; they duplicate direction that can be found in existing law, regulation, or Forest Service policy; they are based on outdated policies, science, or information; or they include out-of-date terminology. In addition, some standards and guidelines in the 1987 Plan will not be included in the revised Plan because: they were unnecessarily prescriptive about how to accomplish a project; they did not support attaining desired conditions or accomplishing objectives; or they were duplicative. Finally, much of the monitoring and evaluation guidance in the 1987 Plan focuses solely on outputs rather than overall progress towards the desired conditions (or goals).

Wilderness Management

The Plan guidance covers National Forest System (NFS) lands within the Prescott NF boundary, with the exception of two wilderness areas: Sycamore Canyon and Pine Mountain Wilderness Areas. Sycamore Canyon Wilderness is located within and is managed by three national forests—the Coconino, Kaibab, and Prescott; however, its management direction is found within the Coconino National Forest Land Management Plan. Pine Mountain Wilderness is located within and managed by two national forests—the Prescott and Tonto; however, its management direction is found within the Prescott National Forest Land Management Plan. Information in this land management plan is a substitute for wilderness management plans for designated wilderness in the Prescott NF.

Inventoried Roadless Area Management

The Plan includes management direction for Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs) identified in the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR). There is currently a legal dispute regarding the status of the RACR, with two Federal courts having issued conflicting rulings. Pending resolution of that legal question, the Plan includes guidance (see chapter 2, DC-IRA-1) for retaining the undeveloped character of these areas based on analyses completed to date and public involvement for the RACR. The decision for the final Plan will be consistent with the legal status of the RACR at the time the Plan is signed.

Decisions Made in the Plan

Plan decisions include: goals/desired conditions, objectives, guidelines, standards, suitability of uses, special areas, and monitoring.

Desired conditions (or goals) describe the picture for the future of the Prescott NF. They are the social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area are directed. They are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities and may only be achievable over a long period. "Goals," as required by the 1982 planning rule provisions, are articulated as "desired conditions" in this Plan.

Objectives describe how the Forest Service intends to achieve desired conditions for the Prescott NF. Objectives are concise projections of measurable, time-specific intended outcomes. Objectives are the work that we think needs to be done and the means of measuring progress toward achieving or maintaining desired conditions.

Guidelines are guidance or constraints that should apply when an action is being taken that helps to make progress towards desired conditions. A guideline allows for deviation in direction, if the result of the deviation would be equally effective. Deviation from a guideline must be addressed in the decision document with the supporting rationale.

Standards are guidance or constraints that apply when an action is being taken to make progress towards desired conditions, but they differ from guidelines in that standards do not allow for deviation without a Plan amendment.

Special Areas are lands within the National Forest System (NFS) which have designations by Congress or other delegated authority. "Special areas" are designated because of their unique or special characteristics. Examples include wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, research natural areas, botanical areas, and national recreation trails.

Suitability of Areas refers to NFS lands which are identified as "suitable" for various uses. An area may be identified as suitable or not suitable for certain uses depending on its compatibility with desired conditions and objectives for the area. This Plan describes the processes for determining suitability for timber and grazing in appendices XX. Suitable acreages for timber and range in this Plan as well as recreation opportunity suitabilities are found in the desired conditions under the heading "Social and Economic Factors."

Monitoring is the part of the adaptive management strategy used to determine the degree to which on-the-ground management is maintaining or making progress toward desired conditions. The monitoring plan includes questions and performance measures designed to inform implementation and evaluate effectiveness.

Plan Organization

This Plan is organized into the following major divisions:

Chapter 1: Introduction briefly describes the planning area, the analysis of the management situation, the purpose of this Plan, the plan components, and how they are distributed throughout the Plan. This chapter does not contain plan decisions.

Chapter 2: Goals/desired conditions that apply to all of the Prescott NF include descriptions of desired outcomes as a result of Forest Service management.

Chapter 3: Objectives are a list of measurable, time-specific actions intended to help the Prescott NF achieve desired conditions described in chapter 2.

Chapter 4: Standards and guidelines are included that apply to all Prescott NF lands including guidance or constraints that are expected to be applied as site specific projects are carried out.

Chapter 5: Management area direction provides desired conditions and standards and guidelines that apply to specific geographic areas of the Prescott NF.

Chapter 6: Monitoring and evaluation provides the adaptive management strategy for determining the degree to which on-the-ground management is maintaining or making progress toward desired conditions.

Management Approaches

Management approaches are not part of the plan components or decisions but are expressions of intent for how the Prescott NF will likely apply aspects of future management. Management approaches are also based on public feedback the Prescott NF received on the draft Plan regarding suggested methods for carrying out activities. Therefore, this section has been added to reflect our intent and those suggestions.

Collaboration/ Volunteers

There are many who have suggested that they would like to assist with aspects of national forest management. The Prescott NF intends to create increasing opportunities for volunteers and partners to be more active as part of national forest management. One area where this approach could work well is in natural resource and heritage education and interpretation. Citizen involvement would also benefit the Prescott NF by increasing contact with recreation visitors to encourage appropriate behavior. Assistance with Plan monitoring is also a possibility. Finally, collaborative methods with interest groups and volunteers are ideally suited to addressing the problem of dumping trash, appliances, etc. on the Prescott NF, including the collecting and disposing of dumped material.

Cooperation with Tribal Groups and Agencies

Heritage

Most heritage resource management is guided by laws, existing regulations, and Forest Service policy. For that reason, few plan components are found in the revised Plan that relate to such management. However, heritage resources management will be consistent with the State Cultural Resource Plan and planning activities of the State Historic Preservation Officer, as well as coordination with other Tribal, State, and Federal agencies. This could include periodic meetings, data sharing, coordination on National Register nominations, interpretation, site protection, and participation in the State heritage resources planning process. In addition, Native American tribes, communities, and Nations will be consulted when heritage resources having religious or traditional cultural values for living communities of American Indian tribes may be present. These communities or tribes will be consulted concerning location and importance of those resources and alternatives for protecting them.

BLM

Arizona is 1 of 19 states where one may locate mining claims or sites. The Forest Service manages minerals found on the surface of National Forest System (NFS) lands and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for subsurface minerals on NFS and BLM lands. Therefore, if the Forest Service desires to have an area withdrawn from mineral entry, it requests such a closure from the BLM. Examples of areas which are withdrawn from mineral entry include: a designated wilderness, a portion of a designated wild and scenic river, or a designated recreation area. For areas not withdrawn, the Forest Service may apply mitigations for mining, but it may not prohibit mining.

AZGFD and USFWS

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) directly manages wildlife populations, while the Forest Service manages wildlife habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the agency that oversees direct management of animals and fish across the Nation, including administration of the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. The Prescott NF will cooperate with one or both of these agencies in order to carry out management activities. For example, management of native fish could involve removal of non-native species, as well as adjustments in habitat, which could require working with AZGFD or USFWS. The Prescott NF also expects to coordinate with AZGFD in development of wildlife linkages (movement corridors) within the Prescott NF so that local populations of species, such as the pronghorn antelope, remain viable where habitat is being fragmented. Finally, the Prescott NF intends to facilitate partnerships that lead to maintenance of year-round water structures for wildlife.

Watershed Management

In several Plan components, high-priority watersheds or high-risk riparian areas are referenced (see objective O-18 in chapter 3). The intent of the Plan is to address the needs of these priority watersheds by: 1) classifying watershed condition across the Prescott NF including the determination of potentially high-risk riparian areas and 2) implementing integrated enhancement activities with emphasis on priority watersheds. In addition, partnership opportunities to cooperate with others to accomplish monitoring are expected to be explored.

Open Space

The Forest Service intends to participate in meetings hosted by the Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute regarding the East Mingus Land Exchange Task Force. The Verde Valley Land Preservation Institute was formed after the Verde Valley Forum on Open Space took place. The purpose of the group is to acquire, manage, and enhance the natural open space in the Verde Valley. East Mingus lands occur on steep slopes approximately between Jerome and Clarkdale and south of Jerome.

Concept Descriptions to Improve Reader Understanding in the Revised Plan

This section was placed in this introduction in an effort to respond to questions and feedback we have received related to technical terminology and concepts that were used in preparation of this Plan. By gaining some understanding of those concepts early on, Plan clarity may be improved. The concepts are organized according to the five areas identified in the Need for Change statement.

1. Restore vegetation, structure, composition, and desired characteristics of fire to selected ecosystems, while responding to citizen concerns related to smoke emissions.
In order to improve ecological health and sustainability within several plant communities, the arrangement of vegetation, types of vegetation species, and frequency of disturbances (such as fire) need to be modified.

Concepts for Understanding

Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs): During forest plan revision efforts a framework was needed to classify and map areas on the Prescott NF based on associations of ecological factors. In order to determine needs for change, the Prescott NF used Potential Natural Vegetation Types (PNVTs) as a means of classifying and mapping similar units of vegetation, soil, climate, and disturbance on a forestwide scale. Thirteen PNVTs were identified in 2007 and then consolidated into eleven major PNVTs. PNVTs were derived from information contained in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey (2000). Terrestrial Ecosystem Survey map units were originally identified for the whole Prescott NF based on

field inspection. They classify lands according to similarities in vegetation, local climate, geology, topography, and soils. Each PNVT is described by its unique set of 'states' and 'movements.' The 'states' describe the life forms, composition, age or size, and relative density of the vegetation at different life stages. The 'movements' between states describe two types of pathways: changes driven by probabilistic transitions (e.g., fire, drought, insect outbreaks, and management activities like tree thinning) and deterministic changes due to the passage of time (e.g., regeneration, succession, growth, self-thinning). A 'states and movements' framework allows for simulating and testing vegetative dynamics using computerized models.

A reference condition that identified relative amounts of each state and the frequency of movements between states was estimated based on scientific literature (Schussman and Smith, 2006) or Forest Service experiences within the western United States (Hann and others, 2008). Comparisons of the current situation to reference conditions were made to identify needed changes and thus produced acreages found in chapter 3, Objectives. A map (map D, appendix A) has been created that displays the 11 PNVTs found on the Prescott NF.

NNIS: Native plants and wildlife species are those that have evolved or adapted to their environment, including other species and ecological process. Non-native invasive species (NNIS), in this document, are those that are not native to Arizona ecosystems; and because there is a lack of checks and balances within the ecosystem to control their spread, they out-compete native species and easily expand or spread over large areas. For plants, NNIS can choke out native species, changing habitat for insect life, animals that feed on that insect life, and ultimately changing the availability of habitat for wildlife. Additionally, NNIS may alter the natural fire patterns, which then affect native species. For fish, non-natives can dominate native species' habitat and food sources, and some types of non-native fish predate or eat native fish.

There are also non-native species that are not invasive and can be beneficial to the ecosystem. Examples include introduced insect species that inhibit or feed on certain invasive plant species or non-native plants such as filaree, an annual plant that provides forage to cattle and wildlife and food and cover for quail and other birds on rangeland.

Resilience: For the purposes of the desired conditions described in this document, the term resilience refers to the capacity of an ecosystem to absorb disturbance and reorganize, so that it retains essentially the same function, structure, and identity as before the disturbance. In other words, resilience is the ability of an ecosystem to rebound from disturbances.

2. Retain or improve watershed integrity to provide desired water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery.

Watershed integrity is the completeness of watershed function in providing water quality, quantity, and timing of delivery. It is influenced by soil function, biological function and the physical shape of the land, including steepness and geological factors. Vegetative structure and composition, ecological disturbance patterns, and recreation activities all can affect watershed integrity.

Concepts for Understanding

During any discussion of watersheds, scale needs to be identified. When discussing the watershed characteristics of the Verde River, for example, we need to differentiate between the 1.6 million acre Upper Verde River Watershed including multiple streams that drain into the river or the 28,700 acre Upper Granite Creek-Watson Lake watershed that covers only one stream (and its tributaries) and drains into the Upper Verde River?

The means of determining scale in a watershed is the **Hydrologic Unit Code** as developed by the U.S. Geologic Survey. In this system, the larger the watershed is, the smaller the Hydrologic Unit Code

(HUC). For example, the system creates a hierarchy where many smaller watersheds are nested within the next level watershed; then many at that level are included in a larger watershed.

Watersheds were analyzed at the 4th and 5th HUC level in preparation for plan revision (see maps XX in appendix A). At this scale, only a portion of most 5th HUC watersheds overlap with Prescott NF land ownership. Therefore, while 5th code watersheds that overlap the Prescott NF range from about 150 to 360 square miles in size, watershed integrity objectives primarily refer to the 1 to 230 square mile portions of those watersheds that are part of the Prescott NF.

3. Provide sustainable and diverse recreation experiences that consider population demographic characteristics, reflect desires of local communities, avoid overcrowding and user conflicts, and minimize resource damage.

With increasing populations and numbers of visitors to the Prescott NF, conflicts between types of activities, over-crowding, and over-use leading to resource impacts need to be addressed.

Concepts for Understanding

The **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum** (ROS) is a classification system that identifies a continuum of setting, activities, and recreation experiences. It is used to inventory and classify large areas based on national criteria involving physical, social, and managerial attributes. The ROS map C can be found in appendix A. For the most part, it classifies recreation opportunities as they exist. The classifications range from the most remote and undeveloped (primitive) to the most developed settings (urban) based on access, remoteness, social encounters, amount of visitor management, and type of recreational development, and visitor impacts. ROS classifications found on the Prescott NF are as follows:

- Primitive (P)—the experience includes isolation from man-made sights, sounds, and management controls in an unmodified environment. Motorized use is not present.
- Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM)—there is some isolation from man-made sights, sounds, and management controls in a predominantly unmodified environment. Few visitors are present, but some evidence of use is expected. Motorized use is rare or not present.
- Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)—is very similar to Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized except that both motorized and non-motorized use is present.
- Roaded Natural (RN)—there are about equal opportunities for isolated experiences and opportunities to interact with other groups. The landscape is generally natural. On-site managerial controls are subtle. Both motorized and non-motorized use is present. The expectation is that visitors will drive to facilities.
- Roaded Modified (RM) – the natural environment is substantially modified by management activities such as mining and utility corridors. Some evidence of other users is likely.
- Rural (R)—the natural environment is substantially modified. Interactions with other visitors prevail. Sights and sounds of people are readily evident and user numbers are moderate to high.
- Urban (U)—a substantially urbanized area is present, although the background may have natural elements. There are high levels of human activity, concentrated development, and developed sites and roads are designed for high use.

4. Provide desired habitat for native fish species.

Native fish and other aquatic species are in decline within several watersheds. Native aquatic species are no longer found in five watersheds that overlap with the Prescott NF. The Prescott NF can provide habitat and watershed characteristics that will support native fish species. The Forest Service can also cooperate with the State of Arizona in addressing control of non-native species.

Concepts for Understanding

The Forest Service is required to plan for retaining **species diversity** and to provide for habitat needed to maintain **viable,** well-distributed **populations** of existing native and desired non-native species (FSM 1926.15). A list of species was identified including: a) federally-listed or candidate species, b) those species for which management actions could be needed to prevent federal listing, and c) those species for which management actions could be necessary to achieve ecological or other multiple-use objectives. The list included birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, invertebrates, and plants. Species were screened to determine whether or not they occurred in the plan area and were affected by Forest Service management. For species affected by Forest Service management, potential threats that could impact species' distribution and abundance were identified and screened to determine which species warrant more detailed consideration in the Plan. For many species, trending toward aquatic and vegetative desired conditions listed in chapter 2 will maintain species diversity and viability. For others, specific plan components, such as objectives, or standards and guidelines were developed to respond to diversity or viability concerns.

5. Enhance the value of open space provided by the Prescott NF by defining the value of visual character within areas near or viewed by those in local communities.
The Forest Service has an opportunity, via the Plan, to ensure that open space and scenic values are taken into consideration on Prescott NF lands as population density is expected to increase on other ownerships.

Concepts for Understanding

The **Scenery Management System** provides a systematic approach for determining the relative value and importance of scenery on National Forest System lands. It is a method of analyzing national forest lands using attractiveness, visibility, and level of public value of scenery to determine the scenic integrity objective for areas on the Prescott NF. Map A in appendix A has been created that classifies the Prescott NF into Scenic Integrity Objectives of high, medium, or low. An area of high scenic integrity objective is one that has highly-valued scenic qualities and whose integrity should be maintained. Within areas of high or medium Scenic Integrity Objective, guidelines were developed to help retain scenic qualities.